Lynchings - 1938
Cases of 6

Florida.

6074

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
September 28, 1938

LYNCHING OF NEGRO BARED

Death Suppressed Because of Shame

By The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE—W. Branch Cone, secretary to Governor Fred P. Cone, said yesterday he had received a report from the American Civil Liberties Union that Odis Price, negro turpentine worker, was lynched near Perry, in Taylor County, on Aug. 9.

At Perry, Sheriff S. L. Wilson said he "could not say whether it was a lynching." He reported Price was found dead beside a road. "It looked like he had been shot two or three times."

Sheriff Wilson said he was away at the time Price's body was found. He said there had been a report the negro either attacked or made some insulting remark to a white woman, but this had not been confirmed.

Wilson has not reported the case to the Governor's office, he said, "because there hasn't been much to report."

At Jacksonville, Margaret Bailey, State Representative for the International Labor Defense, quoted an unnamed Perry minister as saying news of the death was suppressed because the county was ashamed of it.

FIRST OF KIND

Miss Bailey said the negro's death was the first of its kind in Florida since defeat of the anti-lynching bill at the last session of Congress.

The ILD representative sent a telegram to State Attorney A. K. Black of Lake City demanding full investigation and saying conditions in Taylor County were "a disgrace to all Florida."

Black would not say whether Price's killing was a lynching. He declined to discuss much of his investigation because of a secrecy rule around the grand jury's deliberations.

He said Deputy Sheriff Napoleon Wilson told a coroner's jury the day Price's body was found that he had arrested the negro the night before at a small community not far from Perry.

BLOCKS HIGHWAY

As he brought the prisoner to the Taylor County jail, Wilson was quoted as testifying, a group of men in several cars blocked the highway and took Price from him.

The State Attorney said Price had not been charged with a crime and the record did not reveal what type disturbance he was arrested for.

The coroner's jury, presided over by County Judge Byron Butler, found that Price died at the hands of unknown persons, Black added.

The State Attorney said Deputy Wilson was suffering from several broken ribs the night he arrested Price and was not in condition to work. He made the trip, however, because of Sheriff W. L. Wilson's absence from Perry.

In its telegram to the Governor's office, the Civil Liberties Union said Price's death had been reported and added:

"Urge you to order immediate investigation with view to prosecution of those participating in lynching.

"Fearless State action necessary to stamp out lynch[illegible]"

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
September 28, 1938

TAYLOR COUNTY NEGRO'S DEATH STIRS PROTEST

Anti-Lynching Group Give News of Killing Near Perry Aug. 9

(By The Associated Press)

State and county officials sought additional information today about the death of Odis Price, a negro, reported lynched near Perry, Aug 9.

Sheriff W L Wilson of Taylor county said a grand jury was investigating. The governor's office asked Wilson for a report which the sheriff said had not previously been made "because there hasn't been much to report."

Wilson said Price's body, shot "two or three times," was found beside a highway.

Both Wilson and State Attorney A K Black of Lake City declined to say whether the negro had been lynched. No arrests have been made in connection with the case.

No Charges Against Negro

Black said Deputy Sheriff Napoleon Wilson told a coroner's jury a group of men in several cars blocked the highway and took Price from him. The deputy, Black said, reported he had arrested the negro at a small community near Perry and was taking him to the Taylor county jail.

Black said no charge had been made against the negro and records did not reveal the cause of his arrest.

Sheriff Wilson said reports the negro had attacked or insulted a white woman the day before he was found dead had not been confirmed.

First public information of the reported lynching was contained in telegrams of protest received by Black and the governor's office from several organizations.

"Disgrace to Florida"

Margaret Bailey of Jacksonville, state representative of the International Labor Defense, demanded a full investigation and asserted conditions in Taylor county were a "disgrace to all Florida."

The Modern American Youth club of Jacksonville charged that "attempts to suppress all news of the lynching and condoning of crime by local authorities through indifference have added immeasurably to the disgrace brought upon our whole state."

From New York, the American Civil Liberties Union urged the governor to make an investigation "with a view to prosecution of those participating in the lynching."

FIFTH LYNCHING REPORTED FROM PERRY, FLORIDA

NEW YORK, Sept. 16—From Tallahassee, Fla., has come confirmation of the lynching in Perry, Fla., on August 9th, 1938, of Otis Price, 22. The story is confirmed also by a letter to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here from a citizen of Macon, Ga., who viewed the body of the lynched man. The Price lynching brings the total for the year thus far to five.

According to the account of the lynching sent to the NAACP, Price and his wife lived near a white farmer's house and both got water from the same well. Price was on his way to the well to get a bucket of water and the white farmer's wife was taking a bath in the doorway or window of her home as Price passed. She screamed that she had been raped and Price fled home in terror. Although urged by [illegible] to take their little money and leave the vicinity, Price refused, leave saying he was not guilty of any crime.

Sheriff Wilson of Taylor county arrested Price and was taking him to jail when a mob of undetermined size took the prisoner from the custody of the officer and killed him. Price's throat was cut and his body riddled with bullets..

No mention of the lynching appeared in the papers of that section of Florida, but Price's body was viewed by several persons in addition to the undertaker. Rev. Mr. Burke, pastor of the church at Hufford where Price was a deacon, also knew of the lynching.

The NAACP, in commenting on the lynchings of 1938, pointed out that only two of them have been heralded in the press. The prolonged debate over the federal anti-lynching bill last January and February has driven lynching underground and much more diligence is required to search out lynchings than was needed before. The Perry, Fla. lynching is a case in point. Still another is supposed to have taken place in Perry, but no facts have been brought to light as yet.

Expect Report on Mississippi

A report is expected soon by the NAACP from a white investigator who went to Rolling Fork, Miss., to probe the lynching there on July 6 of Tom Greene. At the time the daily newspapers reported that Negrees joined whites in helping to lynch Greene. Stating that it did not believe this to be true, the NAACP announced it was sending an investigator to make a special report. The Greene lynching was supposed to

Fifth Lynching Is In Florida; Facts Leak Out

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According to the account of the lynching sent to the NAACP, Price and his wife lived near a white farmer's house and both

FLORIDA MOB SLAYS NEGRO, NAACP TOLD

Fifth Lynching Is Not Reported

NEW YORK, Sept. 22—From Tallahassee, Fla., has come confirmation of the lynching in Perry, Fla., on August 9, of Otis Price, 22. The story is confirmed also by a letter to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here from a citizen of Macon, Ga., who viewed the body of the lynched man. The Price lynching brings the total for the year thus far to five.

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ANOTHER LYNCHING REPORTED IN SOUTH

Usual 'Rape Story' Held Cause of Brutal Killing of 22-Year-Old Otis Price in Perry, Fla.—White Press Has Ignored Story.

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GUILTY OF NO CRIME

According to the account of the lynching sent to the N. A. A. C. P. Price and his wife lived near a white farmers house and both got water from the same well. Price was on his way to the well to get a bucket of water and the white farmer's wife was taking a bath in the doorway or window of her home as Price passed. She screamed that she had been raped and Price fled home in terror. Although urged by his wife to take their little money and leave the vicinity, Price refused to leave saying he was not guilty of any crime.

BODY RIDDLED

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IGNORED BY PRESS

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ILD Demands Fla. Lynching Investigation

Murder of Odis Price In Perry Is Placed Before Governor

(Special to the Daily Worker)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Sept. 24.—The International Labor Defense today demanded gubernatorial action in the six weeks old slaying suppressed lynching of Otis Price, 22-year-old [illegible] turpentine worker whose bullet-ridden body was found Aug. 9 in the woods near Perry, Fla.

Demands for an official investigation into the murder-slaying were lodged with Gov. Fred P. Cone by Margaret Bailey, ILD state representative, who also asked State's Attorney A. K. Black for Grand Jury action the week of Sept. 26.

With his wife, Price, employee of the Huxford Turpentine Still, shared a well with the Outer family, white, and allegedly made advances to Mrs. Outler, near the well, the afternoon of the night his body was found, throat cut and sieved with bullets.

Men of the turpentine camp, according to the story told by relatives of the Outlers, "took care of Odis Price." A jury sitting before County Judge Byron Butler as ex-officio Coroner returned a verdict attributing death to "A party or parties unknown, using certain deadly weapons." No report of the lynching was carried in the Florida press.

Miss Bailey, made a personal investigation in Perry, following reports of the slaying made to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and a news story printed in the Daily Worker of Sept. 20. Outraged liberal sentiment in Florida is being mobilized by the ILD campaign to bring mobsters to justice.

Rape

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Modern Bathsheba Causes Lynching

Florida Woman, Sponging Off in Doorway, Yells Rape, and Innocent Witness Is Killed

"And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house; and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

"And David sent and inquired after the woman. . . ."—II Samuel, 11: 2, 3.

*Bathsheba, wife of Uriah, the Hittite.

NEW YORK.

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According to the account of the lynching sent to the NAACP, Price and his wife lived near a white farmer's house and both got water from the same well. Price was on his way to the well to get a bucket of water and the white farmer's wife was taking a bath in the doorway of her home as Price passed.

Cries "Rape"

She screamed that she had been raped and Price fled home in terror. Although urged by his wife to take their little money and leave the vicinity, Price refused to leave saying he was not guilty of any crime.

Sheriff Wilson of Taylor County arrested Price and was taking him to jail when a mob of undetermined size took the prisoner from the officer and killed him. Price's throat was cut and his body riddled with bullets.

No mention of the lynching appeared in the papers of that section of Florida, but Price's body was viewed by several persons in addition to the undertaker. The Rev. Mr. Burke, pastor of the church at Hufford, where Price

was a deacon, also knew of the lynching.

Only 2 in Press

The NAACP, in commenting on the lynchings of 1938, pointed out that only two of them have been heralded in the press. The prolonged debate over the Federal anti-lynching bill last January and February has driven lynching underground and much more diligence is required to search out lynchings than was needed before.

The Perry, Fla., lynching is a case in point. Still another lynching is supposed to have taken place in Perry, but no facts have been brought to light as yet.

REPORT SOON ON MISS. LYNCHING

A report is expected soon by the NAACP from a white investigator who went to Rolling Fork, Miss., to probe the lynching there on July 6 of Tom Greene. At the time the daily newspapers reported that colored people joined whites in helping to lynch Greene. Stating that it did not believe this to be true, the NAACP announced it was sending an investigator to make a special report.

The Greene lynching was supposed to have been the first of the year, but last week the NAACP received a letter from a prominent white citizen of Columbus, Miss., giving details of the lynching on June 10 of Wash Adams for failure to pay a balance of $10 due on a funeral bill. Adams was beaten to death with an iron instrument.

Lynchings - 1938
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General.

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RACES

1938's Nos. 1 & 2

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People this month saluted the fact that the first six months of 1938 had passed without a single U. S. lynching.

One day last week Robert Purdy Flanagan, 36, a prosperous planter who with his brother Jack operated 12,000 acres near Rolling Fork, Miss., went to his plantation

Pictures Inc.

GOVERNOR MURPHY

He called for a civilized attitude.

(See col. 3)

smithy to berate his black blacksmith, Tom Green, 48, for working on the side for another planter. On the spot Planter Flanagan fired Blacksmith Green, started sorting out his tools. He came to a rifle. The smith claimed it. The planter did likewise. Green drew a pistol and shot. Wounded in the jaw, Flanagan fired the rifle, hit Green in the side. Green fired twice more and the planter dropped dead.

Within 30 minutes, a lynch mob of 300 assembled at Green's cabin, where he had barricaded himself with rifle, pistol and shotgun. Planter L. H. Harris rushed the door with a riot gun, blew Green's head off. Then they burned Green's body, dragged it behind a car 18 miles to the Rolling Fork dump, burned it again. Sheriff M. C. Ewing "arrived later."

Tom Green's lynching, 1938's No. 1, received extra headlines. Although he was not known as a "bad nigger," eight members of his own race appeared among the white folks in the lynch mob.

• • •

Three days after No. 1, Police Marshal Freeman O. Epps of Arabi, Ga. started to take drunken Negro John Dukes, 60, to jail. Dukes pulled a pistol, drilled Epps thrice. Dying, Epps wounded Dukes mortally. A mob finished off Dukes by setting him afire.

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Georgia

5855

NEGRO, 60, IS LYNCHED
AFTER ARABI SLAYING

CORDELE, Ga., July 9.—(AP)—Chief Deputy Sheriff J. G. Bullington said tonight a negro named John Dukes, 60, was shot and killed Marshal F. O. Epps, 60, of Arabi today and was later lynched by an enraged mob.

Mob Burns Dying Negro

First Lynching Of 1938 Follows Pistol Duel In Georgia

ARABI, GA., July 9.—(AP)—Sheriff J. H. Pitts said tonight a negro, who was in a "dying" condition after a pistol duel in which he shot and killed Marshal F. O. Epps, 60, was seized by an enraged mob, saturated with gasoline and burned on a country road near here.

The sheriff said the officer was called to a negro section of the town to arrest a negro named John Dukes, 60, on a charge of drunkenness.

"The negro whipped out a pistol and fired five times at the marshal," the sheriff said. "Before Epps fell, dying, he pulled his pistol and shot the negro twice.

"The negro ran about 200 yards and fell. When I arrived at the scene, he was in a dying condition."

Sheriff Pitts said after he left "a bunch of people got the negro, poured gasoline on him and finished him off."

The mob, the sheriff said, hauled the negro in a truck about a half mile out of town and set fire to him.

"The negro's body was badly charred," he added.

The sheriff said Coroner W. E. Mixon, of Cordele later held an inquest and a coroner's jury returned a verdict the negro "came to his death by unknown parties."

It was the first recorded lynching of 1938.

Sheriff Pitts said "the case is closed as far as I am concerned unless something turns up to cause an arrest."

Dr. C. M. McKinney, druggist here, said "there were 400 or 500 people in the crowd "that hauled the negro off."

"Epps had been marshal about two years," he said, "and was popular. Feeling was rather high following the shooting. Epps had known the negro a long time and went down there to arrest him, not expecting any trouble."

McKinney said the negro "was unconscious—in a dying condition—when burned."

Arabi, a town of about 500 population, is nine miles south of Cordele, county seat of Crisp County in south Georgia.

CROWD BURNS FUEL-SOAKED DYING SLAYER

Mob Violence Occurs While Man Is Dying of Wounds From Shots by Marshal

CORONER HOLDS INQUEST

Victim's Death Comes After Officer Killed Arresting Him for Drunkenness

ARABI, Ga., July 9—A silent, grim faced mob late this afternoon carried a seriously wounded Negro about half a mile from town and burned him after he fatally shot Freeman O. Epps, town marshal.

Sheriff J. H. Pitts, arriving from Cordele shortly afterward, said he had been able to obtain no information as to identities of members of the mob. It was the nation's first lynching in 1938.

The Negro, John Dukes, about 63, was shot by Marshal Epps, about 60, before the latter died of three wounds inflicted by Dukes in resisting arrest, investigators said.

Marshal Epps had arrested the Negro for being drunk, near the Arabi city limits about 3 p.m. today, it was stated. Residents reported he had made it a habit to drink freely on Saturday afternoons for some months.

Dukes pulled a pistol from his pocket and shot the officer three times—in the neck, the hand, and the heart.

Marshal Epps returned the fire before falling, wounding the Negro in the left arm and in the chest. The officer fell at the spot and was dead when townspeople attracted by the shots, arrived a few moments later.

The Negro was removed to a nearby house and Sheriff Pitts summoned from Cordele. The sheriff made a routine investigation and returned to Cordele, only to be summoned again shortly after he arrived there by news that a mob had entered the house and carried the Negro out to burn him.

Some inflammable liquid, probably gasoline or kerosene, was poured over the Negro's body and ignited, Sheriff Pitts stated.

The mob, which the sheriff said he understood was small, carried the elderly victim—unconscious from his wounds—about half a mile outside Arabi on the road to East Bay spring, an unpaved public highway.

They set fire to the Negro just beside the road, and dispersed shortly after the flames died out. Sheriff Pitts stated, leaving the body where it lay.

On his second trip the sheriff carried Coroner W. E. Mixon and Deputies J. M. Cofer and M. F. Carter. Coroner Mixon conducted an inquest and his jury decided the Negro met death "at the hands of parties unknown."

A Cordele undertaker carried the charred body to his establishment.

Everything Quiet

Sheriff Pitts said "everything was very quiet" tonight in Arabi just as he was preparing to return a second time to Cordele. He said he heard no reports of demonstrations or disorders.

The sheriff left the two deputies in Arabi overnight to watch the situation, he said, and to serve as general law officers. Marshal Epps was the town's only policeman.

Arabi's population is about 500, and about half the number are Negroes, Sheriff Pitts estimated. He said a nearby sawmill and turpentine camp employs a large number of Negroes.

Mr. Epps had been marshal of Arabi for two years, and had lived in Cordele previously. He is survived by his wife and an adopted son, Harmon Epps, and several brothers and sisters.

Arabi is about nine miles south of Cordele.

Local residents offered the opinion the Negro had been mortally wounded by Marshal Epps' gunfire, and may have been dead before the mob set fire to him. He was unconscious when taken from the house, it was reported.

Sheriff Pitts said he could not contact anyone who would admit having seen the lynching.

Dukes fired five shots at the officer, but only three took effect, it was learned.

Negro Flees

Sheriff Pitts said after he was shot the Negro ran about 200 yards and fell. "When I arrived at the scene, he was in a dying condition," the officer reported.

The mob, the sheriff said, hauled the Negro in a truck to the place where the lynching occurred. He said the body was badly charred.

Reports on the size of the mob were inconsistent. Several local residents maintained the group of men was small, while others estimated its total at upwards of 500, or more than twice the entire white population of the town.

The sheriff said "the case is closed as far as I am concerned unless something turns up to cause an arrest."

The sheriff said he did not know whether the wounded Negro received any medical attention before he was seized by the mob.

'All Quiet' as Arabi Inters Lynch Victim

No Race Feeling Reported 24 Hours After Town Witnessed 1938's First Lynching

ARABI, Ga., July 10—With "deathly quiet" overhanging Arabi 24 hours after it witnessed America's first recorded lynching of 1938 citizens this afternoon buried Freeman O. Epps, 60, town marshal

Simultaneously, Arabi's Negro population held last rites for John Dukes, elderly Negro who shot Marshal Epps fatally yesterday in resisting arrest for drunkenness, and suffered lynching at the hands of an enraged mob a little before sundown.

Mr. Epps, a Christian Scientist, formerly had been a member of the Baptist church in Cordele, where he resided before coming here two years ago. His funeral was held in the Arabi Baptist church with his former pastor, Rev. Drake of Cordele, officiating. Burial followed in the local cemetery.

He is survived by his wife and an adopted son.

Sheriff's deputies from Cordele left in charge here overnight after the slaying of the town's only law officer reported "everything quiet" and "business as usual."

Local residents said there was no race feeling apparent among either white people or Negroes, who make about equal parts of the town's 500 population.

"Marshal Epps and the old Negro were good friends," one pointed out. "The town lays the whole thing to liquor, and nothing else."

Dukes shot Epps when the latter was summoned by other Negroes on word he was "drunk and raising a row," in the Negro section of town. Epps returned the fire before falling and wounded Dukes twice.

Lynching Minimized

"It wasn't hardly a lynching, anyway," another resident observed. 'Dukes was unconscious and dying when the boys came to get him, and he probably was dead before they set him on fire."

The mob hauled the Negro half a mile from town in a truck and fired his body with liquid fuel beside an unpaved but well traveled highway.

"There's not any feeling here at all," a citizen reported, "except the town is badly hurt over losing a fine and popular citizen."

Dukes was "a good man" and well liked by Arabi's white people, it was stated, until recently when he had begun observing his Saturday afternoon holidays by drinking freely, they said, but had not been in any serious trouble before.

Mayor J. B. Cravatt is expected to call a council meeting soon to name a marshal as successor to Epps.

No arrests had been made in connection with the incident today, and Sheriff J. H. Pitts said he considered the matter "closed as far as I am concerned."

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
July 10, 1938

Negro Killer Is Lynched

Burned to Death After He Slays Georgia Marshal

Arabi, Ga., July 9 (AP)—Sheriff J. H. Pitts said tonight a Negro who was in a "dying" condition after a pistol duel in which he shot and killed Marshal F. O. Epps, 60, was seized by an enraged mob, saturated with gaso-

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July 9 (AP)—Dr. F. D. Patter-

Beaten by Guard—Wanted to Shine Shoes

State Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City, July 9 (AP)— President Roosevelt let Oklahoma voters know today that he would like to have his loyal supporter, Elmer Thomas, returned to the senate.

The President, in his own words, had a "wonderful" day. It was studded with ovations yet tinged with sorrow and surprise. The death of Justice Cardozo was a "great personal shock" to Mr. Roosevelt. The antics of Woody Hockaday, eccentric Kansan, almost upset the presidential motorcade in Oklahoma City.

"I don't think I have ever seen as many people in one spot as I saw at Oklahoma City," he said later, adding he had been told estimates of the crowd varied from 75,000 to 250,000.

Addressing a cheering fairgrounds throng the President carried one step further his program of indicating his indorsement of New Deal supporters.

"Senator Thomas," Mr. Roosevelt said, "has been of enormous help

Cordele Ga. Dispatch
July 11, 1938

SHERIFF ASSERTS LYNCHING 'CLOSED

No Arrests Planned Unless Further Information Turns Up; First Lynching in United States in 1938

Sheriff J. H. Pitts this afternoon pronounced the lynching of John Lukes, negro, in Arabi Saturday a "closed affair" unless "further information turns up."

The lynching, the first in the United States in 1938, occurred after a shooting duel in which Marshal F. O. Epps was killed and Dukes was wounded. Epps had arrested the negro for being drunk.

Sheriff Pitts, summoned from Cordele, jailed the negro and returned to this city, to find that a mob, variously estimated at between 400 and 500, had removed the negro, soaked him with some inflammable fluid, and burned him alive. No arrests were made.

The elderly Negro was already unconscious from his wounds when the mob seized him and carried him about a half mile out on the road to East Bay Spring.

Epps had been Marshal of Arabi for two years.

It was reported that there was almost no race feeling in Arabi, as the two dead men were buried yesterday. Citizens of that town blamed the tragedy on liquor, stating that Dukes had been getting drunk regularly on Saturday afternoons.

High Point N. C. Enterprise
July 10, 1938

Georgia Mob Lynches Negro

Aged And Wounded Negro Who Supposedly Shot And Killed Marshal Is Burned To Death

CORDELE, Ga., July 9—(AP)—Chief Deputy Sheriff J. G. Bullington said tonight a Negro named John Dukes, 60, shot and killed Marshal F. O. Epps, 60, of nearby Arabi today and was later lynched by an enraged mob.

Bullington said Epps returned the Negro's fire before falling mortally wounded and hit him twice. He said the Negro was in a dying condition when he and Sheriff J. H. Pitts returned to Cordele after investigating the affair and the mob later "seized the Negro and finished him off."

He said he understood gasoline was poured on the dying Negro and that he was burned to death.

Dr. F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute said in Alabama the reported lynching was the first of the year for the entire nation.

Tuskegee's bureau and research and records issued a report Wednesday that, for the first time in four years, there had been no lynchings during the first six months of the year.

Sheriff Pitts said that after he left, the mob hauled the Negro in a truck about a half mile out of town and set fire to him.

"The Negro's body was badly charred," he added.

The sheriff said Coroner W. E. Mixon of Cordelle later held an inquest and a coroner's jury returned a verdict the Negro "came to his death by unknown parties."

Epps sought to arrest the Negro for drunkenness about 3 o'clock this afternoon, Bullington continued, when, according to witnesses, Dukes opened fire and "put four or five bullets" into the officer. He quoted the witnesses as saying Epps shot three times while the Negro was firing

and then fell to the ground.

"He never spoke after that," Bullington said.

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Georgia

5856

Augusta, Ga. Herald
July 10, 1938

Mob Burns a Negro at Arabi, Ga.

Slayer of Officer Lynched 9 Miles South of Cordele

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The sheriff said the officer was called to a negro section of the town to arrest a negro named John Dukes, 60, on a charge of drunkenness.

"The negro whipped out a pistol and fired five times at the marshal," the sheriff said. "Before Epps fell, dying, he pulled his pistol and shot the negro twice.

"The negro ran about 200 yards and fell. When I arrived at the scene, he was in a dying condition."

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FIRST RECORDED LYNCHING OF 1938

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Sheriff Pitts said "the case is closed as far as I am concerned unless something turns up to cause an arrest."

Dr. M. C. McKinney, druggist here, said "there were 400 or 500 people" in the crowd "that hauled the negro off."

"Epps had been marshal about two years," he said, "and was popular. Feeling was rather high following the shooting. Epps had known the negro a long time and went down there to arrest him, not expecting any trouble."

McKinney said the negro "was unconscious—in a dying condition—when burned."

Arabi, a town of about 500 population, is nine miles south of Cordele, county seat of Crisp County in South Georgia.

Aged Negro Burned Alive By Lynchers

ARABI, Ga., July 10.—A lynch mob burned alive an aged Negro John Dukes, here yesterday, after he had collapsed from bullet wounds.

Dukes, 60, was grabbed by the mob after he allegedly shot and killed Freeman O. Epps, Arabi marshal.

While the aged Negro was still unconscious the mob that formed around the stepladder piled on fire.

According to reports, the struggle between the two developed when the marshall tried to bring Dukes to jail for drunkenness. According to the story of the case here, Dukes drew a revolver and shot the marshal in the neck and heart. The latter, while falling, shot Dukes in the left arm and in the chest. There has been no confirmation on which actually shot first.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
July 10, 1938

GEORGIA REPORTS FIRST LYNCHING OF THE YEAR

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., July 9. (AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute said tonight the reported lynching of a negro at Arabi, Ga., was the first of the year for the entire nation.

Tuskegee's bureau of research and records issued a report Wednesday that, for the first time in four years, there had been no lynchings during the first six months of the year.

The body of a negro killed while resisting arrest near Rolling Fork, Miss., reportedly was burned by a mob but police issued an official denial.

Macon Ga. Telegraph
July 11, 1938

'All Quiet' as Arabi Inters Lynch Figures

No Race Feeling Reported 24 Hours After Town Witnessed 1938's First Lynching

ARABI, Ga., July 10—With "deathly quiet" overhanging Arabi 24 hours after it witnessed America's first recorded lynching of 1938 citizens this afternoon buried Freeman O. Epps, 60, town marshal

Simultaneously, Arabi's Negro population held last rites for John Dukes, elderly Negro who shot Marshal Epps fatally yesterday in resisting arrest for drunkenness, and suffered lynching at the hands of an enraged mob a little before sundown.

Mr. Epps, a Christian Scientist, formerly had been a member of the Baptist church in Cordele, where he resided before coming here two years ago. His funeral was held in the Arabi Baptist church with his former pastor, Rev. Drake of Cordele, officiating. Burial followed in the local cemetery.

He is survived by his wife and an adopted son.

Sheriff's deputies from Cordele left in charge here overnight after the slaying of the town's only law officer reported "everything quiet" and "business as usual."

Local residents said there was no race feeling apparent among either white people or Negroes, who make about equal parts of the town's 500 population.

"Marshal Epps and the old Negro were good friends," one pointed out. "The town lays the whole thing to liquor, and nothing else."

Dukes shot Epps when the latter was summoned by other Negroes or word he was "drunk and raising a row," in the Negro section of town. Epps returned the fire before falling and wounded Dukes twice.

Lynching Minimized

"It wasn't hardly a lynching, any way," another resident observed. "Dukes was unconscious and dying when the boys came to get him, and he probably was dead before they set him on fire."

The mob hauled the Negro half a mile from town in a truck and fired his body with liquid fuel beside an unpaved but well traveled highway.

"There's not any feeling here at all," a citizen reported, "except the town is badly hurt over losing a fine and popular citizen."

Dukes was "a good man" and well liked by Arabi's white people, it was stated, until recently when he had begun observing his Saturday afternoon holidays by drinking freely, they said, but had not been in any serious trouble before.

Mayor J. B. Cravatt is expected to call a council meeting soon to name a marshal as successor to Epps.

No arrests had been made in connection with the incident today, and Sheriff J. H. Pitts said he considered the matter "closed as far as I am concerned."

Georgia Adds Quota To 1938 Lynch Record

Furnishes 2nd Lynching In Three Days As Mob Burns Old Man

ARABI, Ga., July (ANP)—Not to be outdone by a mob in the Southern sister state of Mississippi that shot a Negro blacksmith to death and twice burned him two days before, a mob burned the body of a dying 60-year-old man after he had killed the lone policeman of this small South Georgia village.

John Dukes was the victim. He was unconscious when an angry mob formed and fired his body where it had fallen to the ground. Shortly before, Freeman O. Epps, white, Arabi marshal, had attempted to arrest Dukes on a charge of being drunk.

Objecting to the way in which he was being manhandled by the officer, Dukes pulled a pistol from his pocket and shot Epps three times, one bullet entering his neck and the other his heart. Before falling, the marshal shot Dukes twice, once in the left arm and once in the chest. The elderly man collapsed, unconscious, to the ground.

Americus, Ga., Recorder
July 11, 1938

Crisp County Lynches First Person in 1938

ARABI, Ga., July 11 (AP)—The nation's first lynching of 1938 was on the records today, the result of mob action here Saturday after a negro assertedly shot down a peace officer who sought to arrest him.

Sheriff J. H. Pitts of Crisp county said an enraged crowd, estimated by a witness at from 400 to 500 persons, seized the negro, listed as John Dukes, 60, shortly after he had shot and killed Marshal F. O. Epps, 60. The sheriff said the negro fired five shots at Epps. The latter, before he fell, succeeded in drawing his pistol and shooting his assailant twice.

Sheriff Pitts said after he left the scene a mob seized the dying negro, placed him in a truck, and carried him to a country road a half mile from town. There, the sheriff said, he was saturated with gasoline and burned to death.

MOB LYNCHES GEORGIA NEGRO

Victim Seized After Marshal is Killed in An Arrest Attempt

CORDELE, Ga., July 9.—(AP)—Chief Deputy Sheriff J. G. Bullington said tonight a negro named John Dukes, 60, shot and killed Marshall F. O. Epps, 60, of nearby Arabi today and was later lynched by an enraged mob.

Bullington said Epps returned the negro's fire before falling mortally wounded and hit him twice. He said the negro w as in a dying condition when he and Sheriff J. H. Pitts returned to Cordele after investigating the affair and the mob later "seized the negro and finished him off."

He said he understood gasoline was poured on the dying negro and that he was burned to death.

Sheriff Pitts and Coroner W. E. Mixon left for Arabi as soon as news of the lynching arrived, Bullington said, and proceeded at once to hold an inquest.

Dr. F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute said in Alabama the reported lynching was the first of the year for the entire nation.

MUNCIE IND MORNING STAR
SUNDAY JULY 10 1938

NEGRO IS LYNCHED AFTER KILLING OF GEORGIA MARSHAL

Cordele, Ga., July 9 (AP)—Chief Deputy Sheriff J. G. Bullington said tonight a Negro named John Dukes, 60, shot and killed Marshal F. O. Epps, 60, of nearby Arabi today and was later lynched by an enraged mob.

Bullington said Epps, returned the Negro's fire before falling mortally wounded and hit him twice. He said the Negro was in a dying condition when he and Sheriff J. H. Pitts returned to Cordele after investigating the affair and the mob later "seized the Negro and finished him off."

He said he understood gasoline was poured on the dying Negro and that he was burned to death.

Epps sought to arrest the Negro for drunkenness about 3 o'clock this afternoon, Bullington said, when, according to witnesses, Dukes opened fire and "put four or five bullets" into the officer.

Dr. F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, said in Alabama the reported lynching was the first of the year for the entire nation.

Oneida, Tenn. News
July 15. 1938

FIRST LYNCHING FOR YEAR REPORTED IN GA

Negro Is Burned by Mob After He Killed Marshal

Sheriff J. H. Pitts, of Arabi, Ga. said a Negro, who was in a "dying" condition after a pistol duel in which he shot and killed Marshal F. O. Epps 60, was seized by an enraged mob saturated with gasoline and burned on a country road near there Saturday night.

The sheriff said the officer was called to a Negro section of the town to arrest a Negro named John Dukes 60, on a charge of drunkenness.

"The Negro whipped out a pisto and fired five times at the marshal, the sheriff said. "Before Epps fell, dying, he pulled his pistol and shot the Negro twice.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. NEWS
JULY 10, 1938

LYNCHING RECORD FOR '38 SMEARED BY GEORGIA MOB

Negro Burned To Death As Men Take Revenge For Marshal's Slaying

CORDELE, Ga.—(AP)—The nation's spotless lynching record for 1938 was blotted out Saturday as an enraged mob captured and burned a Nego to death after the man shot and killed the marshal of nearby Arabi.

Chief Deputy Sheriff J. G. Bullington said the Negro, John Dukes, 60, fatally shot Marshal F. O. Epps, 60, as the officer attempted to arrest him for drunkenness.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, reported that the burning of Dukes was the first lynching of the year for the entire nation. The institute's bureau of research Wednesday issued a report that, for the first time in four years, there has been no lynchings during the first six months of the year.

The body of a Negro killed last week while resisting arrest near Rolling Fork, Miss., reportedly was burned by a mob, but police issued an official denial.

Bullington said Epps returned the Negro's fire before falling mortally wounded and hit him twice. He said the Negro was in a dying condition when he and Sheriff J. H. Pitts returned to Cordele after investigating the affair and the mob later "seized the Negro and finished him off."

He said he understood gasoline was poured on the dying Negro and that he was burned to death.

Sheriff Pitts and Coroner W. E. Mixon left for Arabi as soon as news of the lynching arrived, Bullington said, and proceeded at once to hold an inquest.

Epps sought to arrest the Negro for drunkenness about 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon, Bullington continued, when, according to witnesses, Dukes opened fire and "put four or five bullets" into the officer. He quoted the witness as saying Epps shot three times while the Negro was firing and then fell to the ground.

"He never spoke after that," Bullington said.

Sheriff J. H. Pitts said the Negro, who was in a "dying" condition after the pistol duel, was seized by the mob, saturated with gasoline and burned on a country road.

The sheriff said the officer was called to a Negro section of the town to arrest Dukes on a charge of drunkenness.

"The Negro whipped out a pistol and fired five times at the marshal," the sheriff said. "Before Epps fell, dying, he pulled his pistol and shot the Negro twice.

"The Negro ran about 200 yards and fell. When I arrived at the scene, he was in a dying condition."

Sheriff Pitts said after he left "a bunch of people got the Negro, poured gasoline on him and finished him off."

The mob, the sheriff said, hauled the Negro in a truck about a half mile out of town and set fire to him.

"The Negro's body was badly charred," he added.

The sheriff said Coroner W. E. Mixon, of Cordele, later held an inquest and a coroner's jury returned a verdict the Negro "came to his death by unknown parties."

Sheriff Pitts said "the case is closed as far as I am concerned unless something turns up to cause an arrest."

Dr. M. C. McKinney, Arabi druggist, said "there were 400 or 500 people" in the crowd "that hauled the Negro off."

"Epps had been marshal about two years," he said, "and was popular. Feeling was rather high following the shooting. Epps had known the Negro a long time and went down there to arrest him, not expecting any trouble."

McKinney said the Negro "was unconscious—in a dying condition—when burned."

Arabi, a town of about 500 population, is nine miles south of Cordele, county seat of Crisp County in South Georgia.

Lynchings - 1938
Cases of

Louisiana

5858

Louisianans Lynch Suspect in Slaying

Negro Captive Is Hanged to Tree and His Body Is Riddled With Bullets

RUSTON, La., Oct. 13 (AP)—A mob today seized R. C. Williams, 19-year-old Negro suspected of slaying a white man and beating his woman companion, refused to turn him over to the sheriff, hanged him to a pine tree and riddled his body with bullets.

Fire was set under the dangling body but a few mob members kicked out the flames so that fingerprints could be taken for comparison with those found on the slain man's automobile.

Posses had been searching for Williams since Tuesday night when R. M. Blair, 30-year-old Jonesboro papermill foreman, was beaten to death by a Negro with a baseball bat. As Blair's woman companion, a Ruston waitress, sought to flee from the couple's parked car the Negro struck her brutally.

The lynching of Williams, according to records at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, was the third in the United States this year. The others were listed as having happened at Rolling Fork, Miss., and Arabi, Crisp county, Ga., but Mississippi authorities denied that a lynching occurred.

District Judge E. L. Walker said tonight he would call a special session of the Lincoln parish grand jury next week to investigate the lynching here.

"This is a blemish on the community," he said, "which will be headlined all over the United States."

Three boys, one of them armed with a pistol, saw Williams this afternoon running across the field from the home of his grandmother, Ellen Williams, to a nearby smokehouse.

The boys ordered him out and marched him to posse members.

Sheriff Bryan Thigpen, learning the Negro had been captured, found a mob of several hundred men marching the Negro through the woods a mile from his grandmother's place.

Professor Intervenes

When he found the men, the sheriff later explained, a leader of the mob turned a shotgun on the Negro, threatening to kill him on the spot if the officer sought to take him by force.

The sheriff reported he begged with the leader not to harm the Negro and promised a speedy, fair trial.

L. J. Fox, professor of sociology at Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, was among hundreds of Ruston townsmen who rushed to the scene when they heard of the Negro's capture.

Professor Fox pleaded for the Negro's life and safety, warning that violent mob action would be a blot on the parish.

Finally it was agreed, said the sheriff, who was accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Ed Neal, that the mob would march the Negro through the woods and surrender him to the officers on a side road.

But when he reached the road, the sheriff said, he heard shots.

About 20 members of a local guard unit hurried to the scene and after the flames of the first fire were stamped out prevented any further attempt to molest the Negro's body.

But after Williams had been cut down and his body removed to a Negro undertaking establishment it was discovered that a hot poker had been jammed into his flesh a number of times.

Williams' grandmother did not see his capture. She had been jailed yesterday when the search for the youth became intensive.

MOB TORTURES LYNCHES NEGRO

Youth Admitted Killing White Man, Report To Sheriff

RUSTON, La.—(AP)—An infuriated mob of several hundred men late yesterday marched a 19-year-old Negro to the spot where they said he killed a white man and slugged his woman companion, and hanged him from a tree before riddling his body with bullets.

District Judge E. L. Walker said today he would call a special session of the Lincoln Parish Grand Jury next Monday or Tuesday to investigate the lynching of the Negro, R. C. Williams.

The fatal beating of R. M. Blair, a paper mill foreman, and his companion, a Ruston waitress, as they sat in a parked car on a side road three miles east of here, was the second such occurrence reported within a month.

Three youths caught Williams and turned him over to the mob. Sheriff Bryan Thigpen, informed of the capture, sought to intervene, but a mob leader held a gun against the Negro and said he would shoot if the sheriff interfered.

The Negro was taken to the scene of the crime, tortured with a hot poker rammed into his body several times, then strung from a tree as many pumped bullets into his body. A fire was lighted under the dangling body, but it was kicked out so the Negro's fingerprints could be compared with those found on the dead white man's car.

The sheriff said it was reported to him that the Negro confessed before his death.

Prints Link Lynched Man To Attack Case

Negro Claimed Shown Aggressor In Crime Month Ago

RUSTON, LA., Oct. 14.—(AP)—Captain W. D. Atkins, of the State Bureau of Identification, said today the palm print taken from the body of W. C. Williams, 19-year-old negro lynched near here yesterday, matched that of a negro who beat a white man and attacked his woman companion outside Ruston a month ago.

Williams was hanged, shot and seared with a red hot poker by a mob which sought him as the killer Tuesday night of R. M. Blair, 47, a plant worker. A negro, coming upon Blair and a Rushton waitress in a parked car, clubbed the foreman's head to a pulp and beat the girl as she sought to flee.

Three prints taken from Blair's car, Captain Atkins said, were not clear and so could not be identified.

On Sept. 13, under circumstances almost identical with that of the Blair killing, a negro attacked J. W. Breedlove, 20, and a girl companion. He beat Breedlove unconscious before attacking the girl.

It was a print taken from Breedlove's car, the captain said, which tallied with Williams's palm print.

Captain Atkins turned the bureau's findings over to Sheriff Bryan Thigpen here. The sheriff said yesterday he had learned a majority of those witnessing the lynching reported the negro admitted slaying Blair but denied the attack of Beedlove.

District Judge E. L. Walker said the Lincoln Parish grand jury would begin an investigation Monday.

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Negro Hanged And Shot By Louisiana Crowd After Hung

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Boys Capture Negro

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The boys ordered him out and marched him to posse members.

Sheriff Bryan Thigpen, learning the negro had been captured, found a mob of several hundred men marching the negro through the woods a mile from his grandmother's place.

When he found the men, the sheriff later explained, a leader of the mob turned a shotgun on the negro, threatening to kill him on the spot if the officer sought to take him by force.

The sheriff reported he begged with the leader not to harm the negro and promised a speedy, fair trial.

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And it was reported that relatives of the beaten waitress who, like the professor, had rushed to the scene, joined their pleas with his for the negro's life.

Agreement Violated

Finally it was agreed, said the sheriff, who was accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Ed Neal, that the mob would march the negro through the woods and surrender him to the officers on

But when he reached the road, the sheriff said, he heard shots. It was the sound of pistol and rifle bullets and shotgun slugs being poured into William's body.

About twenty members of a local guard unit hurried to the scene and after the flames of the first fire were stamped out prevented any further attempt to molest the negro's body.

But after Williams had been cut down and his body removed to a negro undertaking establishment it was discovered that a hot poker had been jammed into his flesh a number of times.

William's grandmother did not see his capture. She had been jailed yesterday when the search for the youth became intensive.

Williams had been sought also in connection with the brutal beating on Sept. 13 of J. W. Breedlove and criminal attack of his young woman companion. Breedlove, like Blair, had parked his car on a country road when a negro suddenly appeared, beat him and attacked his companion.

Deputy Sheriff Neal tonight was to take fingerprints of Williams.

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This is the first year, he said, in which the first six months passed without a lynching. There were eight lynchings in the United States in 1936 and in 1937

FUGE LOUISIANA MOB LYNCHES YOUNG NEGRO

Victim Accused Of Assault And Slaying

RUSTON, La., Oct. 13.—(UP)—A mob of nearly 1000 persons today dragged W. C. Williams, a 19-year-old negro, to the spot where he was accused of attacking a white girl and clubbing her companion to death, pulled him into a tree with a rope and punctured his dangling body with volleys of buckshot and bullets.

"Kill him," the mob shouted as state police and parish officials who had directed a two-day serach over hundreds of acres of canebrakes and woodlands were showed helplessly aside.

Three youths found the negro crouching in a smokehouse loft near his cabin home. They called sleey-eyed possemen and the negro was pulled to the scene three miles east of Ruston where Bob Blair, 45-year-old paper mill foreman, was beaten to death Tuesday night and his 20-year-old girl companion cruelly beaten.

Officers said there was no doubt that the negro who killed Blair was the same negro who beat J. W. Breedlove, 20-year-old college student, into insensibility and then drove his coed companion over the countryside until daybreak, attacking her several times.

State police said it was the first lynching in Louisiana in three decades.

Negro Boy Is Lynched By Louisiana Mob

HUSTON, La., Oct. 13.—The body of a 19-year-old Negro lad hung, riddled with bullets, in a wood near here today as a mob inspired by 24 hours of lynch hysteria performed the seventh Negro lynching to be made public this year.

Tommy Williams, the lynch victim, was murdered without even the fake pretext of a "confession." While Sheriff Thigpen and a gang of state troopers looked coldbloodedly on, the youth was pulled from a small smokehouse in which he had taken refuge and hanged, while members of the lynch mob pumped bullets into his struggling body.

Williams was tracked down and way right into Tom Girdler's heart. The Iron and Steel Institute and every labor-hating scoundrel in the country welcomed Sokolsky.

He was first hired by Ellery Sedgwick, editor of the Atlantic Monthly. Mr. Sedgwick's most recent claim to fame is that Franco paid his way to fascist Spain and the editor of Atlantic Monthly returned suffused with fascist propaganda.

This same Atlantic Monthly which took oil trust money to publish a special supplement attacking the Mexican people and praising Standard Oil and Royal Dutch Shell found Sokolsky a like-minded collaborator.

Lynchings - 1938
Cases of.

Louisiana.

5859

Mob Lynches Suspect In Attack Case

Negro Hanged And Shot By Louisiana Crowd After Hunt

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Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
October 15, 1938

Lynched Man Is Linked To Crime Series

RUSTON, La., Oct. 14 (AP)—Sheriff Bryan Thigpen said tonight further investigation might link W. C. Williams, 19, Negro, who was lynched yesterday, with numerous recent "parked car" assaults and robberies in this section and near El Dorado, Ark.

A mob caught the Negro yesterday, beat him, rammed a hot poker into his body, hanged him from a tree, riddled his body with bullets and tried to cremate him.

Some mob members kicked out the flames, however, to permit his fingerprints to be taken. Capt. W. D. Atkins of the state bureau of identification reported his palm prints matched those of a Negro who fractured the skull of J. M. Breedlove, 20, and attacked his woman companion when they parked near here a month ago.

The mob formed Tuesday night after R. M. Blair, 47, paper mill foreman of Hodge, La., was beaten to death with a baseball bat and his woman companion, a Jonesboro, La., waitress, slugged over the head. Mob members said Williams confessed this crime.

The sheriff's department said today it learned the Negro made a down payment on an automobile the day after a filling station operator was slugged over the head and robbed of about $50 a little over a month ago.

Youth, 19, Hanged In Louisiana

South Reminded It Is Failing To Curb Evil

RUSTON, La.—The brutal lynching here last week of a 19-year old youth focused nationwide attention on the lynching evil and the arguments of Southern politicians against federal anti-lynching legislation.

Shortly after the lynching was reported, the NAACP announced from its New York office that a new federal anti-lynching bill would be introduced in Congress when it convenes in January.

Almost before the bullet riddled body of Tommie Williams was cut down from a tree near Ruston, Governor R. W. Leche was confronted with a telegram on the lynching question he sent to the United States Senate last January and Louisiana Senator Allen J. Ellender was reminded of his part in the lengthy filibuster that defeated the lynching bill last year.

Governor Leche was urged to use all the powers of the state to apprehend and punish the lynchers by NAACP Secretary Walter White.

SIXTH LYNCHING

Senator Ellender talked for six days during the filibuster. In a telegram to him, Mr. White pointed to the Ruston lynching as proving the need for a federal law to stop lynching.

The Williams lynching was the sixth of the year.

The youth was seen by three white boys walking from his home to a smokehouse on an errand for his grandmother and forced at the point of a gun to go with them to a posse which was looking for the man who had killed R. M. Blair and beaten his woman companion. They turned the youth over to the posse explaining that he looked like the man sought.

Sheriff Bryan Thigpen stood nearby as the mob lynched the youth and riddled his body with bullets.

A daily news service reported that the sheriff pleaded for the life of the Negro and promised a fair trial. It was also reported that the relatives of the girl who was beaten pleaded with the mob to spare the youth's life. Prof. L. F. Fox of Louisianan Polytechnic Institute urged the mob to turn the man over to the law, it was reported.

TO CALL GRAND JURY

The mob started to set fire to the mutilated body but instead his fingerprints were taken so that they could be compared with those on the car in which the white couple had been at the time of the attack and slaying.

These fingerprints were examined by the State Bureau of Identification. When Sheriff Thigpen received the report he is said to have announced that the fingerprints matched with those found on the Blair car.

District Judge E. L. Walker announced that he planned to call a special session of the Lincoln Parish grand jury to investigate the lynching.

It was reported that Sheriff Thigpen had come upon the mob marching Williams through the woods but that when he asked that he be turned over, one of the posse turned a shotgun on the youth and threatened to kill him instantly if the sheriff tried to take him.

SHERIFF BARGAINS

News reports say that it was agreed that the mob would march Williams through the woods and turn him over to the officer on a side road. When he reached the side road, the sheriff is said to have contended, he heard shots. It developed that slugs were being poured into the lynched man's body. Hot pokers were jabbed into his flesh, witnesses report.

There was no evidence to prove that Williams was guilty. He had not been arrested or charged with murder. He had not fled his home as a criminal would be expected to do, local observers point out. He was calmly running an errand for his grandmother when "arrested," "tried," and "convicted" by three armed white youths who happened to be passing, observers point out.

Williams was identified in dispatches variously as R. C., W. C., and Tommie Williams.

The NAACP has been keeping a special record since 1935 on what the states have been doing about lynching. In 1935, during the short filibuster at the end of April, the assertion was made repeatedly in the Senate, and especially by Senator William E. Borah, that the states were acting against lynching and could solve the problem without a federal law.

STATES DO NOTHING

Despite the fact that in all the history of lynching there have been convictions in only eight-tenths of one per cent of the cases, the NAACP started its new record of state activity in 1935 just to answer present day debaters. Since that time to date, not a single state in which there has been a lynching has done anything about the crime.

Last January at the invitation of Senator Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee, the governors of southern states sent wires to Washington pledging state action against mobs. But since that time lynchings have occurred in Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana and the governors of those states have done nothing to catch or punish lynchers.

A new federal anti-lynching bill will be introduced in both houses of the new congress which convenes in January, 1939, the NAACP has announced.

SOUTH CONFESSED UNDER PRESSURE OF GHASTLY TORTURE

(An exclusive eyewitness story written by a white southerner who is a foe of lynching.)

SHREVEPORT, La., Oct. 20—I have just come from witnessing raw, cold-blooded murder. I have seen a human being savagely brutalized. I saw a 19-year-old Negro boy writhe as a red-hot poker was applied to vital organs. I saw that same boy stuck with knives, spat upon, clubbed, jerked from the ground with a noose around his neck. I listened as bullets from pistols, rifles and shotguns poured into his body. I looked as a fire was built under him to burn his body to a crisp.

The law and the conscience of the nation would not permit a dog to be burned alive. The conscience of the nation would not allow a horse or a cow, to be treated as this Negro boy was.

But more than three thousand citizens—men, women, boys and girls—of this district, around Ruston, a few distance from here, gathered on the scene of the lynching Wednesday, of W. C. Williams, Negro boy, accused of killing Robert N. Blair, 43-year-old white mill worker, and of attacking his female companion.

Frankly, I do not know whether this Negro boy was guilty of the crime charged against him. He may have been. He was a halfwit. Everybody knew that.

But I do know that he did not confess his guilt—not until he had been subjected to the most horrible punishment—torture so brutal that it would offend good taste to describe it in a newspaper. Then, and then only, did he nod assent to the questions put to him.

Williams was "captured" by three white boys, all in their teens, one of whom was armed with a pistol. These boys turned the victim over to a mob numbering between 250 and 300. I was there when the boys brought Williams to the mob's leaders. I heard them question him. While they were questioning him, the sheriff, named Thigpen, and State Police Sergeant Kavanaugh came up. They talked to the leaders of the mob. The mob refused to turn the victim loose.

Sheriff Thigpen gave the four or five leaders of the mob permission to take Williams away. The three boys who captured him and the father of one of the boys (B. Cook, a dairyman living in the vicinity), went around one side of the hill nearby while the sheriff and the State troopers went around the other way.

The sheriff confessed his negligence in a statement published in the Monroe Morning World, stating:

"Later, I managed to negotiate with the mob leader. He agreed to walk the Negro through the woods to a side road and to turn the Negro over to me there. I got in my car and drove to the place agreed upon. But when I stopped on the side road to wait for the Negro, I heard shots being fired and I knew that meant the end of the Negro."

I believe that Kavanaugh, the State police sergeant, was glad to see the mob do the job. Kavanaugh's father, reputedly, was killed by a Negro several years ago and was sentenced to only thirteen years' imprisonment.

The grand jury investigation scheduled will very probably be a whitewash of the entire crime. I have not had an opportunity to talk to the judge in Ruston, so I am not in a position to state whether he is sincere in his statement to the press that there would be a complete investigation.

However, from what I have seen I know that public sentiment in Lincoln parish, where the lynching occurred, is 95 per cent with the lynchers.

Only a world of publicity and a strong protest from every possible civic organization to Governor Leche and other members of the State administration will be able to force any kind of investigation or conviction.

The preachers in Ruston will stand entirely aloof. As one minister told me: "We don't like to mix with that sort of thing. I don't know a thing about it, and I don't want to know anything. I am a very nervous man."

A student at Louisiana Polytechnic Institute said: "I didn't get out there until he had been shot to pieces and then I let out a big whoop. I felt just like the home team had won."

However, Prof. L. J. Fox, professor of sociology at the institute, had the courage to plead with the mob for the boy's life. I talked to him later. He is a fine fellow, but thinks now that he stuck his head out too far. He told me that many people have criticized him for his action.

I was informed by one man that B. Cook, one of the mob leaders, had taken part in two previous lynchings.

Despite many attempts, I was only able to get one Negro in Ruston to talk. Of course, he was not at the scene of the lynching.

EUROPE AND PALESTINE . . . BUT WHAT ABOUT LOUISIANA?

Louisiana last week was the scene of the SIXTH lynching for 1935, in the United States.

Officials in Washington . . . exalt of Democracy . . . have protested vigorously to Europe and Palestine, in an effort to halt persecution of helpless minorities.

But what about the wolf . . . who roams unmolested through Dixie, his mouth dripping with the life blood of Black Americans . . . at it's own back door.

Surely, a federal Anti-Lynching Bill, with enough power to kill the "wolf" is as important as our heart-felt concern over unfortunates in other countries.

MR. PRESIDENT: . . . What About LOUISIANA?

WILMINGTON DEL. NEWS
FRIDAY OCT. 18 1935

MURDER SUSPECT LYNCHED, RIDDLED BY LOUISIANA MOB

Victim is Hanged Near Scene of Slaying And An Attack on Woman

Three Boys Capture Hunted Man; Authorities' Plea For Court Trial is Disregarded

By The Associated Press

RUSTON, La., Oct. 13—A mob today seized R. C. Williams, 19-year-old Negro, suspected of slaying a white man and beating his woman companion, refused to turn him over to the sheriff, hanged him to a pine tree and riddled his body with bullets.

Fire was set to fagots under the dangling body but a few mob members kicked out the flames so his fingerprints could be taken for comparison with those found on the slain man's automobile.

Posses had been searching for Williams with bloodhounds since Tuesday night when R. M. Blair, 30-year-old Jonesboro papermill foreman, was beaten to death by a Negro with a baseball bat. As Blair's woman companion, a Ruston waitress, sought to flee from the couple's parked car, the Negro batted her brutally.

Third Lynching of Year

The lynching of Williams, according to records at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, was the third in the United States this year. Tuskegee records listed the others as Arabi, Ga., and Rolling Fork, Miss., although Mississippi authorities denied the latter was a lynching.

District Judge E. L. Walker said he would call a special session of the Lincoln Parish grand jury next Monday or Tuesday to investigate the lynching.

Three boys saw Williams this afternoon running across a field from the home of his grandmother, Ellen Williams, to a smokehouse. The boys ordered him out, marched him to posse members.

Sheriff Pleads With Mob

Sheriff Bryan Thigpen, learning the Negro had been captured, found several hundred men marching the Negro through the woods. The sheriff said a mob leader turned a shotgun on the Negro, threatened to kill him on the spot if the officer sought to take him by force.

The sheriff reported he begged the leader not to harm the Negro and promised a speedy, fair trial.

It was reported that relatives of the beaten waitress rushed to the scene and pleaded for the Negro's life. Prof. L. F. Fox of Louisiana Polytechnic Institute also asked for the Negro's safety.

Finally it was agreed, said the sheriff, that the mob would respect

the Negro through the woods and surrender him to officers on a side road.

Shooting Is Heard

But when he reached the road, the sheriff said, he heard shots. It was the sound of bullets and shotgun slugs being poured into Williams' body.

About twenty members of a local guard unit hurried to the scene and prevented further attempts to molest the Negro's body.

It was discovered later that a hot poker had been jammed into his flesh several times.

Sheriff Thigpen said some witnesses of Williams' death said the Negro admitted slaying Blair and also acknowledged attacking another parked couple.

Lynchings - 1938
Cases of.

Mississippi.

5860

NEGRO SHOT TO DEATH AFTER KILLING BOSS

Slain As He Exchanges Fire With Sheriff, Posse

Special to The Commercial Appeal

BLANTON, Miss., July 6.—Tom Green, 48-year-old negro blacksmith, was shot to death in a gun battle with a posse of 25 Sharkey County men at 10:30 o'clock this morning, after shooting and killing his employer, R. P. Flanagan, on the Flanagan plantation near here an hour earlier. Blanton is in the south end of Sharkey County.

Sheriff M. C. Ewing of Rolling Fork led the posse, which included several of his deputies. The sheriff said the negro was slain after he barricaded himsel fin a house on the plantation and started firing at the officers. "I begged him to come out and surrender," the sheriff said, "but he refused."

According to reports, Flanagan went to the plantation blacksmith shop to see about some work the negro was doing and leter returned, intending to separate the plantation tools from those owned by the negro.

When he started to move a shotgun from the back seat of an automobile the negro pulled a pistol, shot his three times and fled to a cabin near a patch of woods. Flangan returned the fire and shot the negro once.

The posse hurriedly formed and the gun battle was under way for several minutes before the negro was shot to death.

Flanagan owned planting interests in Sharkey and Washington Counties. He leaves his wife and a son.

Lancaster, S.C. News
FRIDAY JULY 8 1938 (Weekly)

FIRST LYNCHING OF YEAR 1938

First Six Months of Year Go By Without a Death at Mob's Hands.

The first six months of 1938 passed without a single lynching in the United States, according to F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee institute in Alabama, and the death by lynching of Tom Green, 48-year-old blacksmith, at the hands of a Rolling Rock, Miss., mob Wednesday was the first to occur in 1938.

The Patterson report stated "I find that. . . . there were no lynchings in the first six months of 1938. This is the first time since a record of lynching has been kept that the first six months of the year went by without a lynching. There were four lynchings each in the first six months of 1935, 1936, and 1937.

Green's death was the first to mar 1938's record.

The negro was shot in a small cabin after a 15 minute gun battle with the mob. The body was dragged several miles and burned on the spot where earlier in the day the Negro had killed R. Purdy Flanagan, prominent white planter.

Lancaster, S.C. News
FRIDAY JULY 8 1938 (Weekly)

FIRST LYNCHING IN YEAR REPORTED

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ST. LOUIS, MO., STAR-TIMES
JULY 9, 1938 J13

KILLED BY A POSSE.

The news stories from Rolling Fork Miss., used the word "posse" to describe the crowd of planters, farmers, deputies, and Negroes which shot Tom Green, Negro, on Wednesday within less than an hour of the time Green had killed a white man in an argument over a rifle. The aftermath of the shooting raises the question of whether this was, in reality, the first lynching of 1938.

After Green was killed his body was dragged to the scene of his fatal argument with the slain white man. There it was drenched with gasoline and set on fire. Later it was dragged behind an automobile to the city dump of Rolling Fork and set on fire again. The details sound like the actions of a mob driven by a mob's insensate fury—not like those of an orderly posse functioning in the ordinary channels of the law.

The day before Green was killed the Tuskegee Institute released a report that there had been no lynchings in the first six months of the current year—the first time the nation had had a clean record since accurate statistics have been kept

Birmingham, Ala. Post
July 9, 1938

KILLING OF NEGRO CALLED A LYNCHING

The National Committee for the Defense of People's Rights today termed the killing of Tom Green, Rolling Fork, Miss., Negro, as "certainly a lynching."

A statement issued here by Joseph L. Gelders, Southern representative of the committee, said that "if Mississippi authorities do not take action, the need for some form of Federal legislation will be shown more clearly than ever.

"This killing, as reported, is certainly a lynching. A mob led by the sheriff killed Green instead of arresting him. The fact that Green's body was burned only emphasizes the mob character of the assembly."

Lynchings – 1938
Cases

Mississippi.

5861

Mississippian Killed By Posse

A national news service late Thursday night reported that the body of a colored man was burned on the city dumping grounds near Rolling Fork, Miss., after he had been shot to death by a posse. The burned man had allegedly killed a white man in Sharkley County.

VICKSBURG, Miss.—(S N S)—What had the earmarks of a near-lynching took place Wednesday when Tom McGehee, 40-year-old blacksmith, was shot down and fatally wounded by a posse led by Sharkey county officers.

McGehee was killed in an alleged gun battle with the posse about five miles from Cary. Sheriff Ewing said the victim resisted arrest.

McGehee was killed shortly after a white planter, R. P. Flanagan, was shot and killed on his plantation. McGehee was employed by Flanagan.

The sheriff insisted that McGehee fled to a nearby cabin after the white man had been shot by him.

SLAYER SHOT DOWN BY MISSISSIPPI POSSE

VICKSBURG, Miss., July 6.—R. P. Flanagan was shot and killed on his plantation five miles from Cary today and a posse led by Sharkey county officers a short time later killed in a gun battle a negro who resisted arrest.

Sheriff Ewing identified the negro as Tom McGehee, 45, blacksmith on the Flanagan place. He had fled to within a half mile away.

Flanagan, 38, was a prominent Sharkey county planter.

Jackson, Miss. News
July 8, 1938

Posse Burns Delta Slayer's Body

The Delta Star of Greenville, had today published a story that Tom Green, negro tenant slayer of R. P. Flanagan, Sharkey county planter, was slain and later burned by a posse earlier this week.

Previous press dispatches had given no indication that the negro was subjected to such treatment by the Sharkey county posse.

The Greenville newspaper published the following version of the planter's death and subsequent slaying of the negro:

A Sharkey county posse of 300 men, including several negroes, burned the body of the slayer of R. Purdy Flanagan, prominent planter, after the negro had been shot to death withstanding the posse from his barricaded cabin 12 miles south of Rolling Fork.

The negro, Tom Green, 48-year-old blacksmith on Mr. Flanagan's plantation, had been wounded by Mr. Flanagan after the planter himself had been shot in the jaw in an altercation. Putting more pistol bullets in the planter's body, and leaving him for dead, Green ran to his own cabin a quarter of a mile away, and barricaded himself.

The posse, formed of planters and business men of Rolling Fork, the county seat, and nearby areas, surrounded the cabin within half an hour. Shots were exchanged for 15 minutes, with the negro using a shotgun, pistol and a .30-.30 rifle, from the vantage point of a cabin chimney. Finally, L. H. Harris county planter, burst in the cabin with a riot gun and blew the negro's head off.

Members of the posse then pulled the body out, tied it to the back of an automobile, and dragged it to the scene of the Flanagan slaying. There it was set afire, and was later dragged to the town dump at Rolling Fork, and set afire again, and was still burning late yesterday afternoon.

During the gun battle between the negro and the posse, Green lodged himself in the chimney of his cabin and a posse member said "every time he fired little puffs of smoke came out of the chimney." When Mr. Harris finally broke into the cabin, Green shot at him, but missed, and Mr. Harris blew the top of his head off.

According to a member of the posse, the altercation between Green and Mr. Flanagan arose when the negro refused to do some work which the planation manager had ordered. When Mr. Flanagan discovered that his orders had not been carried out, he discharged the negro, and began sorting his tools from Green's. He came upon a rifle which the negro claimed was his. Mr. Flanagan refused to give it to him, and the negro drew a pistol and fired, injuring the planter in the jaw. Mr. Flanagan fired with the rifle, hitting Green in the side. Green immediately fired twice more, the third shot lodging in the planter's heart and mortally wounding him.

A member of the posse reported that the negroes in the surrounding community were "very orderly." He said that seven or eight negroes had been members of the posse, though none of them was armed.

Mr. Flanagan was a highly popular young Delta planter, 36 years old. He was an aviation enthusiast and had many friends throughout this section of the country. He leaves his wife, and a small son, R. P., Jr.

McComb, Miss. Journal
July 8, 1938

QUIET REIGNS AFTER LYNCHING OF NEGRO MAN

ROLLING FORK, July — Peace and quiet reigned in Rolling Fork today, the day following the lynching of Tom McGhee, negro killer of R. P. Flanagan, as if nothing out of the ordinary had taken place.

Deputy Sheriff L. C. Hicks said that the posse which killed McGhee was composed of about forty men instead of the reported 300. He said that the negro's body had been left at his home for burial. The Deputy Sheriff said he knew nothing of any violence following the lynching of the negro and that everything was quiet today.

Messages received today stated that the widow and sister-in-law of Flanagan are flying back to Mississippi from the Pacific Coast where they had gone to board a steamer bound for Honolulu.

Tupelo, Miss., Journal
July 8, 1938

Let The Law Take It's Course

The press had within the last few days heralded the good news that there had not been a lynching in the south in the first six months of this year. The ink was hardly dry on the story before a group of men at Rolling Fork took the law into their own hands and lynched a man. From the accounts the man should have been put to death but it should have been legally done. Let the law take its course. One murder does not excuse another by a mob.

COLUMBIA, TENN., HERALD
JULY 7, 1938 J11

(International News Service.)

ROLLING FORK, Miss., July 7.—The first lynching for 1938, and it without a rope, occurred 15 miles south of here late yesterday, when a Sharkey county posse of 300 shot and killed Tom Green, 48, negro blacksmith, who earlier in the day killed R. Purdy Flanagan, prominent white planter on whose place he lived. The mob then dragged the body to the spot where the white man was killed and burned it. In the mob were planters, storemen and other negroes.

Green, wounded slightly earlier by Flanagan, fought off the mob for 15 minutes, using a shotgun, pistol and rifle from his barricaded cabin.

The lynching occurred just as F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., which keeps a record of all lynchings, reported that for the first time in history, a half year had passed with no lynchings in the United States.

With a marked reduction in lynchings in recent years, four occurred in the first six months of last year, the year before, and the year before that, Patterson reported.

TRUCK DRIVER LYNCHED FOR ASKING FAVOR

Aged Woman Screams As He Requests Water To Cool Boiling Auto

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 25—Mississippi, the state whose senators and congressmen recently filibustered the anti-lynching bill, tallied another mob murder to its credit Monday by taking the life of an innocent man at Wiggins, a small town south of Jackson.

The man lynched was Wilder

[illegible] who operated a trucking business. He was accused of "attacking" a white woman, 74 years old.

According to information from reliable sources McGowan's "assault" of the woman came about in a peculiar manner. Early in the day he had refused to do some hauling because of the small fee offered by a neighbor of the "attacked" woman. When he started to leave the community he noticed that his auto was running steam for the lack of water. He requested a pail and [illegible] from the back yard, the woman screaming in the meantime as she dashed at him with a stick.

Mob Appears

McGowan mounted the auto and drove away. He went to his grandmother's house to repair his car and have breakfast. While there three white men came to the door and demanded entrance. They were armed. McGowan fled out the back door into the woods. A searching party formed and bloodhounds were put on his trail. Wading a stream he evaded the hounds, and at midnight came back to his grandmother's home where he attempted to enter his truck and flee to Gulfport for safety. A deputy sheriff was in hiding near the house and placed him under arrest. He was held there until the mob returned from the woods and hanged to a tree a short distance from his home.

McGowan asked repeatedly what crime he was charged with. The 74-year-old woman he was accused of "attacking' 'is the typical snuff-chewing type of southerner. She was present at the lynching.

According to those who knew McGowan, he was an industrious type, operating a moving and hauling business on a small scale. He was the sole support of his grandmother who is 83 years old. The mob in its lust to get McGowan knocked her down several times while ransacking the house.

Pete Lott, (white) a resident of Wiggins gave the first report of the mob and said that he recognized many men in it. Sheriff S. C. Hinton, who came on the scene, and cut McGowan's body from a tree, did not question Lott and said the lynching party was from "another county" and "unknown" to him.

LYNCHINGS- 1938
CASES OF

MISSISSIPPI

5862

Lynched Because He Was 'Negro' Who Would Not Stay in His Place'

White Man Says Hoodlums Plotted to Get Him

NEW YORK CITY—(ANP)—According to an investigator's report made public this week by Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, Wilder McGowan, Wiggins, Miss., youth, lynched in that city on Nov. 21, was innocent of the charge made against him that he criminally assaulted an elderly white woman the previous night.

This startling disclosure was embodied in the report made public by Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, and sent by White to Senator Pat Harrison, senior senator from Mississippi. The report, based on information given by a liberalminded, tolerant Southern white man, declared that McGowan had incurred the hatred of a gang of Wiggins' ruffians because "he didn't stay in his place," and that the rape charge was just an excuse to "get him."

Protected Self

According to the informant, the aged woman said she was attacked by a "light-colored Negro with slick hair" at around eight o'clock in the evening. McGowan's complexion is dark brown. The report stated that while the mob was seeking McGowan, he was totally unaware of what was going on.

The report had this to say of the attitude of the town's white hoodlums against McGowan: "It is generally known that McGowan was completely innocent of the crime for which he was put to death and that the alleged crime was merely used as an excuse to lynch McGowan because he was a Negro who 'did not know his place.'

"We are informed that he was manly and refused to be intimidated by the ruffianly whites of Wiggins and had on several occasions been engaged in altercations when they sought to abuse and mistreat him: that on one occasion when a mob of armed drunken whites in an automobile ordered all the Negroes to run, McGowan refused to do so and was attacked by the mob.

"He fought back and took a revolver from one of the white men, whereupon the mob let him alone. However, they bitterly resented his refusal to let them treat him as they wished."

McGowan was the fourth colored person to be lynched in Mississippi and the seventh colored person to be lynched in the South during 1938.

Old Miss. Mob Lynched the Wrong Man

Victim Was Disliked Because He Balked White Ruffians

NEW YORK—The lynching of Wilder McGowan in Wiggins, Miss., November 21, was the culmination of the pent-up anger of local whites against an innocent colored man who refused to accommodate himself to the attempts of white ruffians to frighten colored citizens of the town, according to an investigator's report.

McGowan was lynched after members of a white mob accused him of attacking an elderly white woman living between the towns of Wiggins and Perkinston, Miss., on the night of Sunday, November 20.

Writes to Harrison

The report, made public by Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, is contained in a letter which White sent to Senator Pat Harrison, senior senator from Mississippi.

According to the report, which was made by a Southern white man, the white woman said she was attacked by a "light colored colored man with slick hair." McGowan is described as dark brown.

Once Halted Mob

"We are informed," Mr. White wrote, "that he was manly and that on one occasion when a mob of armed drunken whites in an automobile ordered all the colored people to run, McGowan refused to do so and was attacked by the mob.

"He fought back and took a revolver from one of the white men, whereupon the mob let him alone. However, they bitterly resented his refusal to let them treat him as they wished."

Innocent Man Lynched Naacp Probe Reveals

Negro Victim Refused To Accommodate Himself To Whites

NEW YORK—An investigation by the N. A. A. C. P. proved last week that Wilder McGowan, who was lynched in Wiggins, Miss., on November 21, was innocent of the crime.

The lynching of McGowan, the NAACP reported, was the culmination of the "pent-up-anger" of whites against an innocent Negro who had refused on numerous occasions in the past to accommodate himself to the attempts of white ruffians to frighten colored citizens.

McGowan was lynched after members of a mob accused him of attacking an elderly white woman on Sunday, November 20. The woman said according to reports, that she was attacked by a "light-colored Negro with slick hair."

McGowan is a man of dark complexion and, the NAACP report said, was not in the vicinity when the alleged attack occurred.

INNOCENT MAN LYNCHED BY MOB IN MISSISSIPPI

Had Once Stopped Negroes From Being Beaten By White Hoodlums

The lynching of Wilder McGowan in Wiggins, Mississippi, November 21, was the culmination of the pentup anger of local whites against an innocent colored man who had refused on numerous occasions in the past, to accommodate himself to the attempts of white ruffians to frighten colored citizens of the town, according to an investigator's report made public here, Saturday.

McGowan was lynched after members of a white mob accused him of attacking a Mrs. Murray, an elderly white woman living between the towns of Wiggins and Perkinston, Miss., on the night of Sunday, November 20.

The report which was made public by Walter White, executive secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., is contained in a letter which White sent to Senator Pat Harrison, senior Senator from Mississippi, December 8.

According to the report, which was made by a southern white man, the white woman said she was attacked by a "light-colored Negro with slick hair at around eight o'clock in the evening."

McGowan is described as a man of dark brown complexion. Describing McGowan's whereabouts at the time he was alleged to have attacked Mrs. Murray, and his being sought by the mob while he was totally unaware of what was going on, the report has the following to say of McGowan's relationship with the local white hoodlums of the town:

"It is generally known that McGowan was completely innocent of the crime for which he was put to death and that the alleged crime was merely used as an excuse to lynch McGowan because he was a Negro who "did not know his place."

"We are informed that he was manly and refused to be intimidated by the ruffianly whites of Wiggins and had on several occasions been engaged in altercations when they sought to abuse and mistreat him; that on one occasion when a mob of armed drunken whites in an automobile ordered all the Negroes to run McGowan refused to do so and was attacked by the mob.

"He fought back and took a revolver from one of the white men whereupon the mob let him alone. However, they bitterly resented his refusal to let them treat him as they wished."

In his letter to the Mississippi Senator, Mr. White described him as a member of that group of Senators "who did not favor passage of the anti-lynching measure, repeatedly stating that such legislation was not needed as the states themselves could and would prevent lynchings and bring the lynchers to justice."

McGowan is the fourth colored person to be lynched in Mississippi and the seventh colored person to be lynched in the South during 1938.

Did Not Know His "Place"

Refused To Be Bullied By Local Hoodlums

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The lynching of Wilder McGowan in Wiggins, Mississippi, November 21, was the culmination of the pentup anger of local whites against an innocent colored man who had refused on numerous occasions in the past, to accommodate himself to the attempts of white ruffians to frighten col-

...ed citizens of the town, according to an investigator's report made public here last Friday.

McGowan was lynched after members of a white mob accused him of attacking a Mrs. Murray, an elderly white woman living between Wiggins and Perkinston, Miss., on the night of November 20.

The report, which was made public by Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, is contained in a letter which White sent to Senator Pat Harrison, senior senator from Mississippi, December 8.

According to the report, which was made by a southern white man, the white woman said she was attacked by a "light-colored Negro with slick hair around eight o'clock in the evening."

WAS DARK BROWN

McGowan is described as a man of dark brown complexion. Describing McGowan's whereabouts at the time he was alleged to have attacked Mrs. Murray, and his being sought by the mob while he was totally unaware of what was going on, the report has the following to say of McGowan's relationship with the local white hoodlums of the town:

"It is generally known that McGowan was completely innocent of the crime for which he was put to death, and that the alleged crime was merely used as an excuse to lynch McGowan because he was a Negro who "did not know his place."

"We are informed that he was manly and refused to be intimidated by the ruffianly whites of Wiggins, and had on several occasions been engaged in altercations when they sought to abuse and mistreat him:

Attack Suspect Lynched By Mob

WIGGINS, MISS., Nov. 21.—(AP)—A mob of 200 white men today lynched Wilder McGowan, 24-year-old negro for the alleged criminal attack and robbery of a 74-year-old white woman.

The negro, trailed by bloodhounds was dragged from a truck and hanged to a tree a short distance east of here on highway 26.

Sheriff S. C. Hinton said the elderly woman, member of a socially prominent family and mother of a Wiggins physician, was attacked and robbed last night by a negro who entered her home through an unlocked door.

McGowan, the sheriff said, was the second negro lynched in Wiggins in the past four years. In 1934, the sheriff said, a mob hanged R. D. McGee, negro, for the alleged rape of a small white girl.

Tuskegee Institute records show that today's lynching was the sixth in the United States this year. The others were: one each in Georgia, Florida and Louisiana, and two in Mississippi; one at Rolling Fork and the other at Columbus.

Last night's attack victim, according to the sheriff, furnished officers with a description of her assailant and the search got under way at 2 a.m. When bloodhounds arrived from Meridian after it had been learned that McGowan was the man whose scent the dogs were following, the sheriff said, the mob captured the negro while officers were still trying to locate him.

But Peter Lott, Wiggins resident who answered the telephone in the sheriff's office while that official was away, said the mob had found McGowan in a truck, preparing to leave for Gulfport, and dragged him down and along the highway to a convenient tree.

The truck and the Negro, Lott said, were discovered a short distance from where he had spent the night.

The sheriff said he did not believe . . . the attacked woman was in a serious condition. The lynching will be investigated, he said.

McGowan, unmarried and a native of Wiggins, had worked the past four months in a Gulport fertilizer plant.

COUNCIL HEAD ROUSED BY WIGGINS LYNCHING

Uncivilized, Mississipian Calls Mob Violence

WIGGINS, Miss., Nov. 22.—(AP)—The lynching of a negro near here yesterday was called "uncivilized" today in a statement issued by Mrs. L. W. Alford, chairman of the Mississippi branch of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The negro, Wilder McGowan, 24, seized by a mob while sheriff's deputies were seeking him several miles away, was hanged to a tree. McGowan was accused of attacking and robbing an elderly woman, member of a prominent family here.

Mrs. Alford's statement, issued at her home at McComb, deplored the lynching and said the law should have been allowed to take its course.

"The victim deserved punishment for his heinous crime," she said, but added:

"As long as American citizens and officers of the law permit mob violence of this type we cannot claim to be a civilized nation."

Sheriff S. C. Hinton said today no arrests had been made and no grand jury action taken pending his investigation of the lynching.

COLUMBUS, Miss., Nov. 22.—(AP) — The Commercial Dispatch today denied there had been a lynching here in 1938 as reported in the records of Tuskegee Institute.

The paper said that several months ago a "negro was killed in a fight with a white man and that this apparently had been listed as a lynching."

NEGRO LYNCHED BY MISSISSIPPI MOB

Sawmill Hand Accused Of Attacking Woman, 74

By United Press.

WIGGINS, Miss., Nov. 22.—Wilder McGowan, 24-year-old Negro who was lynched by a mob of 200 men met his death at the hands of parties unknown, a coroner's jury said today.

The sawmill worker was seized by the Southern Mississippi mob after the 74-year-old mother of a prominent physician told Sheriff S. C. Hinton she had been choked, assaulted and robbed. The attack took place Sunday night near her home where she lived alone.

Hinton formed a posse, set bloodhounds on the trail and began working independently on a clew. Meanwhile, the Negro was found at the home of his grandmother where he sought refuge. It was said McGowan was "quietly" hanged; Hinton said he was certain there was "no shooting and no disorder in the mob."

The sheriff cut down the body and brought it here for the inquest.

MISSISSIPPI MOB LYNCHES NEGRO IN ATTACK CASE

74-Year-Old Woman Is Reported Victim Of Assailant

WIGGINS, Miss., Nov. 21—(AP)—A mob of 200 white men Monday lynched Wilder McGowan, 24-year-old Negro, for the alleged rape and robbery of a 74-year-old white woman.

The Negro, trailed by bloodhounds, was dragged from a truck and hanged to a tree a short distance east of here on Highway 26.

Sheriff S. C. Hinton said the elderly woman, member of a socially prominent family and mother of a Wiggins physician, was attacked and robbed Sunday night by a Negro who entered her home through an unlocked door.

McGowan, the sheriff said, was the second Negro lynched in Wiggins in the past four years. In 1934, the sheriff said, a mob hanged R. D. McGee, Negro, for the alleged rape of a small white girl.

Sixth For Year

Tuskegee Institute records show that Monday's lynching was the sixth in the United States this year. The others were, one each in Georgia, Florida and Louisiana, and two in Mississippi—one at Rolling Fork and the other at Columbus.

Sunday night's victim, according to the sheriff, furnished officers with a description of her assailant and the search got under way at 2 a.m. when bloodhounds arrived from Meridian.

"There were only about eight of us starting out on the hunt," the sheriff said, "but that number grew to about 200 at daylight.

"My deputies and I were about six miles away from the place where the mob grabbed McGowan. With the bloodhounds we trailed the old woman's attacker to the home of Willy D. Fairley, Negro, and learned it was McGowan whose scent the hounds had been following."

Hunted Man Gone

The sheriff said he and his deputies went to a sawmill six miles from Fairley's home where McGowan had spent the night, thinking he was still employed as a mill hand.

"When we got to the mill," the sheriff said, "we found out McGowan had been working at a fertilizer plant in Gulfport. While we were calling there by telephone, trying to get a line on him, the mob got him. I don't know exactly where or how."

MISSISSIPPI MOB LYNCHES NEGRO

Investigation Launched As Accused Attacker Of Woman Is Hanged

WIGGINS, Miss.—(AP)—Sheriff S. C. Hinton said the lynching yesterday of Wilder McGowan, 24, suspected in the rape and robbery of a 74-year-old white woman, would be investigated.

The sheriff said a Negro entered the house of the woman through an unlocked door Sunday night and attacked and robbed her. She is a member of a well-known family.

McGowan, a Gulfport fertilizer plant worker, was caught by a mob of 200 white men yesterday as he was preparing to leave in a truck for Gulfport. He was hanged to a tree.

Tuskegee Institute records showed it was the year's sixth lynching in the United States. The others were: One each in Georgia, Florida and Louisiana, and two in Mississippi; one at Rolling Fork and the other at Columbus.

MISSISSIPPI HAS LYNCHING

Mob Hangs Youth To Tree In Front Of His Aged Grandmother's Home

WIGGNS, Miss. — Wilder McGowan, Negro youth, was hanged from a tree before his grandmother's home here Monday by a lynch mob which had trailed him with bloodhounds after he was accused of criminally attacking a 74-year-old white woman.

Peter Lott, resident of this town, said the mob had been searching for the victim all night and found him "before Sheriff S. C. Hinton could catch up with him."

"They put the dogs on McGowan's trail," he told reporters. "The dogs trailed him to his grandmother's house where he had slept, and the crowd seized him as he prepared to drive to Gulfport in a truck. They dragged him from the truck and hanged him."

MOB LYNCHES NEGRO IN WIGGINS ASSAULT

Dragged From Truck, Hanged —Elderly Woman Attacked And Robbed

By The Associated Press.

WIGGINS, Miss., Nov. 21.—A mob of 200 men today lynched Wilder McGowan, 24-year-old negro, for the assault and robbery of a 74-year-old woman.

The negro, trailed by bloodhounds, was dragged from a truck and hanged to a tree a short distance east of here on Highway 26.

Attacked and Robbed

Sheriff S. C. Hinton said the elderly woman, member of a socially prominent family and mother of a Wiggins physician, was attacked and robbed last night by a negro who entered her home through an unlocked door.

McGowan, the sheriff said, was the second negro lynched in Wiggins in the past four years. In 1934, a mob hanged R. D. McGee, negro, for the assault of a girl.

Last night's attack victim, according to the sheriff, furnished officers with a description of her assailant and the search got under way at 2 a.m. when bloodhounds arrived from Meridian.

200 On Hunt

"There were only about eight of us starting out on the hunt," the sheriff said, "but that number grew to about 200 at daylight.

"My deputies and I were about six miles away from the place where the mob grabbed McGowan. With the bloodhounds we trailed the old woman's attacker to the home of Willy D. Fairley, negro, and learned it was McGowan whose scent the hounds had been following."

The sheriff said he and his deputies went to a sawmill six miles from Fairley's home where McGowan had spent the night, thinking he was still employed as a mill hand.

Found in Truck

"When we got to the mill," the sheriff said, "we found out McGowan had been working at a fertilizer plant in Gulfport. While we were calling there by telephone, trying to get a line on him, the mob got him. I don't know exactly where or how."

But Peter Lott, Wiggins resident who answered the telephone in the sheriff's office while that official was away, said the mob had found McGowan in a truck, preparing to leave for Gulfport, and dragged him down and along the highway to a

convenient tree.

The truck and the negro, Mr. Lott said, were discovered a short distance from where he had spent the night.

Fifth Lynching

The sheriff said he did not believe the attacked woman was in a serious condition. The lynching will be investigated, he said.

Tuskegee Institute records show that today's lynching was the fifth in the United States this year. The others were one each in Georgia, Florida and Louisiana, and one in Mississippi, at Columbus.

Hanged Without Chance

Wilder McGowan Snatched As Mere Rob-Attack Suspect

WIGGINS, Miss.—(SNS)—Twenty-four-year-old Wilder McGowan was snatched from a truck and hanged near here Monday by a bloodthirsty mob of white men.

Crying and yelling his innocence to the end, McGowan was dragged from the truck and carried to a tree a short distance off of highway 26, east of here.

While several members of the lynching party slipped a rope around McGowan's neck, others kicked and struck him.

DEAD AT HANGING

By this time he was strung to the limb, his tortured body had very little life left in it.

As the limp body dangled from the tree, members of the mob pierced it with bullets.

A white woman was reported attacked and robbed here Sunday night. She said a Negro did it.

BLOODHOUNDS LED MOB

Bloodhounds were put on the trail, and after several hours of hunting the mob came upon McGowan. He looked like the man the white woman claimed attacked her.

The woman said the assailant entered her home through an unlocked door and committed the crime.

Police officials promised an investigaton.

NOT FAR FROM RUSTON

Wiggins is not far from the Louisiana line where on October 13, in Ruston, La., another lynching was committed.

Tommie Williams, 19, was the victim of a crazy mob in Ruston. His body was blistered and punctured by hot iron pokers used as weapons by the Lynch-lynchers.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, located in Mobile, was reported planning to demand a speedy investigation of the Mississippi lynching.

Lynchings-1938
Cases of.

Mississippi.

5864

Attack Suspect Lynched By Mob

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Woman's Group Scores Lynching

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The Negro, Wilder McGowan, 24, seized by a mob of white men while sheriff's deputies were seeking him several miles away, was hanged to a tree.

McGowan was accused of criminally attacking and robbing an elderly white woman, member of a prominent family here.

Mrs. Alford's statement, issued at her home at McComb, Miss., deplored the lynching and said the law should have been allowed to take its course.

"The victim deserved punishment for his heinous crime," she said but added:

"As long as American citizens and officers of the law permit mob violence of this type we cannot claim to be a civilized nation."

Sheriff S. C. Hinton said today no arrests had been made and no grand jury action taken pending his investigation of the lynching.

MISSISSIPPI MOB LYNCHES NEGRO IN ATTACK CASE

74-Year Old Woman Is Reported Victim Of Assailant

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The truck and the Negro, Lott said, were discovered a short distance from where he had spent the night.

The sheriff said he did not believe . . . the attacked woman was in a serious condition. The lynching will be investigated, he said.

McGowan, unmarried and a native of Wiggins, had worked the past four months in a Gulfport fertilizer plant.

NEGRO YOUTH LYNCHED BY MISSISSIPPI MOB

Seized After Alleged Attack on Woman, 74, at Wiggins

WIGGINS, Miss., Nov. 21 (AP).—Wilder McGowan, 24-year-old Negro, was lynched today by a mob of about 200 white men who had trailed him several hours with bloodhounds after a 74-year-old white woman allegedly was criminally attacked and robbed.

Sheriff S. C. Hinton said the mob seized the Negro while he and his deputies were six miles away.

This was the second lynching at Wiggins in four years, and records at Tuskegee Institute showed it to be the sixth in the South in 1938.

The elderly woman, according to Sheriff Hinton, was alone in her home last night when a Negro broke in the door and attacked her.

"The woman," the Sheriff said, "furnished a description but could not name the Negro who raped and robbed her. I don't believe the woman, in spite of her years, is in a serious condition. She is the mother of a Wiggins physician and is a member of a socially prominent family."

The Sheriff said he did not know where or how the youth had been found by the mob, which grew from eight men in the early morning hours to about 200 at daylight, when the Negro was hanged from a tree beside a highway.

One man said the mob found the Negro preparing to leave for Gulfport, dragged him away and strung him up.

The Sheriff said the mob did not shoot into the Negro's body or burn him.

Mississippi Mob Victim Was Innocent Man; Was Killed For Crime of Being 'Smart'

N. A. A. C. P. Sends Letter to Pat Harrison Telling Sordid Story of Killing

Attack On White Woman Is Canard

NEW YORK.—The lynching of Wilder McGowan in Wiggins, Mississippi, November 21, was the culmination of the pent-up anger of local whites against an innocent colored man who had refused on numerous occasions in the past, to accommodate himself to the attempts of white ruffians to frighten colored citizens of the town, according to an investigator's report made public here today.

McGowan was completely innocent of the crime for which he was put to death and that the alleged crime was merely used as an excuse to lynch McGowan because he was a Negro who "did not know his place."

McGowan was lynched after members of a white mob accused him of attack on Mrs. Murray, an elderly white woman living between the towns of Wiggins and Perkinston, Miss., on the night of Sunday, November 20.

"We are informed that he was manly and refused to be intimidated by the ruffianly whites of Wiggins and had on several occasions been engaged in altercations then they sought to abuse and mistreat him; that on one occasion when a mob of armed drunken whites in an automobile ordered all the Negroes to run McGowan refused to do so and was attacked by the mob.

"He fought back and took a revolver from one of the white men, whereupon the mob let him alone. However, they bitterly resented his refusal to let them treat him as they wished."

The report, which was made public by Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is contained in a letter which White sent to Senaotr Pat Harrison, senior senator from Mississippi, December 8.

According to the report, which was made by a southern white man the white woman said she was attacked by a "light-colored Negro with slick hair at around eight o'clock in the evening."

McGowan is described as a man of dark brown complexion. Describing McGowan's whereabouts at the time he was alleged to have attacked Mrs. Murray, and his being sought by the mob while he was totally unaware of what was going on, the report has the following to say of McGowan's relationship with the local white hoodlums of the town:

In his letter to the Mississippi Senator, Mr. White described him as a member of that group of senators "who did not favor passage of the anti-lynching measure, repeatedly stating that such legislation was not needed as the states themselves could and would prevent lynchings and bring the lynchers to justice."

McGowan is the fourth colored person to be lynched in Mississippi and the seventh colored person to be lynched in the South during 1938.

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Pent-up Anger Is Cause of Lynching Probe Discovers

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